



## ***CITY of NORTHAMPTON*** ***PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT***

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**For Immediate Release - February 28, 2021**

### **Northampton Health Department Lifts Sports Restrictions**

NORTHAMPTON - Today, Northampton Health Director Merridith O'Leary announced that the City of Northampton Board of Health has lifted its order restricting sports in Northampton, effective March 1, 2021. The order, now rescinded, titled "[Covid-19 Mandatory Policies And Procedures Prohibiting Certain Sports And Recreational Activities In The City Of Northampton](#)" was issued on November 13, 2020.

In lifting these restrictions, all sports and recreational activities in the City of Northampton must now follow rules set forth by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker along with remaining City of Northampton Health Department requirements. Guidance from the Commonwealth can be found at:

[Workplace Safety And Reopening Standards For Businesses And Other Entities Providing Youth And Adult Amateur Sports Activities – Phase III, Step 1 as Amended on February 8, 2021](#)

Northampton Health Department requirements that are in effect for sports and recreational programs include:

- Use of Northampton Health Departments Health Screening Self-Certification for all participants
- If notified of a positive COVID-19 participant you must promptly report this to the Northampton Health Department or within twelve (12) hours of initial reporting

*"I'm proud that Northampton has done such a great job preventing the spread of COVID-19 that the Board feels comfortable easing restrictions on sports," said Health Director O'Leary, "With the number of new cases in steady decline in our area, I'm excited to root on Northampton teams and to watch city children enjoy the physical and mental benefits of organized athletics."*

The Board of Health urges public and private recreational programs, organized school sports, those engaged in 'skills and drills' practices, and businesses who took extra precautions that provided high standards and "best practice" strategies specific to their activities to provide players, students, participants, and members a safe environment, to keep existing successful strategies in place.

For more information, please contact the Northampton Health Department at [healthdept@northamptonma.gov](mailto:healthdept@northamptonma.gov) or at (413) 587-1214.